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Application No.: 10/521,539

-2-

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4 and 8-10, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Previously presented): A buffer for an elevator system, the buffer comprising:  
a conical coil spring,  
wherein the buffer is configured to be disposed at one end of a hoistway of the elevator system for contacting a vertically moving member of said elevator system in the event of an abnormal overrun;  
wherein the conical coil spring includes a spiral coil element that comprises a series of coils,  
wherein a radius of the spiral coil element decreases along an axis of the conical coil spring such that if the spiral coil spring is fully compressed, the coils of the spiral coil spring are configured to be arranged in a substantially planar configuration, and  
wherein a thickness of the coil element is substantially uniform between an outermost coil and an innermost coil.
2. (Previously presented): The buffer as recited in claim 1, wherein an outer radius of a coil is less than an inner radius of an adjacent coil, thereby permitting said coils to be compressed axially without experiencing radial interference.
3. (Previously presented): The buffer as recited in claim 2, wherein a cross-section of the coil element is circular.
4. (Currently amended): The buffer as recited in claim 2, wherein a cross-section of the coil element has an ~~[[is]]~~ arcuate outer surface.

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Application No.: 10/521,539

-3-

5. (Previously presented): The buffer as recited in claim 2, wherein a transverse coil pitch of the coil element is constant.

6. (Previously presented): The buffer as recited in claim 1, wherein the vertically moving element is an elevator car.

7. (Previously presented): The buffer as recited in claim 1, wherein the vertically moving element is a counterweight.

8. (Currently amended): The buffer as recited in claim 1, wherein a thickness of the innermost coil ~~radially~~ varies so as to create a substantially flat contact surface.

9. (Currently amended): The buffer as recited in claim 1, wherein a thickness of the outermost coil ~~radially~~ varies so as to create a substantially flat contact surface.

10. (Currently amended): The buffer as recited in claim 9, wherein a thickness of the innermost coil ~~radially~~ varies so as to create a substantially flat contact surface.